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MARK LANE, BACK AFTER TOUR, REPORTS ON REACTION***The Oswald case: All Europe skeptical***

Mark Lane, New York lawyer who has been investigating the assassination of President Kennedy, reports in the following article on European reaction to meetings conducted on his recent tour. Citizens Committees of Inquiry have been set up in many U.S. cities.

By Mark Lane

AS NEW FACTUAL information from Dallas began to reach the Citizens' Committee of Inquiry, it became clear that one overwhelming problem confronted the committee. As difficult as it was going to be to obtain factual information regarding the assassination of President Kennedy last Nov. 22, it was plain that the greater difficulty would be presenting the information to the American people.

The almost total press blackout, with the NATIONAL GUARDIAN as almost the only exception, seems to indicate that the 180 million Americans were rapidly becoming the least informed portion of the world population regarding the assassination.

My trip to Europe in April and May received scant coverage in the American press. The meetings at the London School

of Economics, at the largest and most important forum in Denmark, and in Rome were not mentioned here. Only my appearance before an international lawyers association in Budapest was recounted, in the New York Times, in a badly slanted and inaccurate story.

I had toured the U.S. three times and

THE GUARDIAN will carry a special report on the Republican Convention in the next issue.

presented to leading newspapers in each city proof that the widely publicized pictures of the slain suspect Lee Oswald with the alleged murder weapon in his hand, which appeared first in Life magazine and then in leading newspapers and magazines, were all doctored photographs in which the rifle, and very likely Oswald's head, had both been airbrushed in. But not a single American paper ran that story until, as a result of my May visit to Europe, European publications conducted a study of the photographs and concluded that they were forgeries. Finally then, the story was published, although sporadically, in the American press. The lesson seemed clear: the only way to

reach the American people was by going abroad. Therefore, at the end of May, I returned to Europe to speak at Copenhagen and Aarhus, Denmark; Florence; Rome; Paris; London; and Lund, Sweden.

PUBLIC MEETINGS in Europe were well attended and received extensive coverage in European newspapers. U.S. News and World Report and the New York Times both reported that all of Europe, with the exception of West Germany, has grave doubts regarding the official governmental line on the assassination. Said U.S. News and World Report, "75% to 80% of the French people doubted the official version." French radio, television, and press reporters indicated that the 80% figure was low, since none of them knew anyone in France who accepted the official version. Even the West German response was immediate. The leading television program of West Germany, Panorama, asked me to fly from Copenhagen to Paris for an interview.

The first meeting at the university in Copenhagen was marked by hostile questions from an American, who declined to give his name but said that he was "an American Fulbright professor." Danish